

## Barrier

### Barriers

*Feature Description:* Barriers are a safety device designed to protect errant motorists from hazards near the roadway. They shield roadside obstacles, protect drivers from steep dropoffs, and can even be used to separate opposing traffic. Examples of barriers are W-beam guardrail, cable rail, and concrete barrier. Barrier that is not functioning properly can be as dangerous as the hazard it is meant to protect. While severely damaged barrier needs to be repaired as soon as possible, barrier that is only moderately damaged and still functions may be scheduled for repair later with other work. Minor damage that is only aesthetic may not need repair at all.

*Threshold Condition:* Barrier should be noted when it is **not functioning as designed** or has been **damaged**. Damaged barrier is defined as follows:

- W-beam guardrail – the rail beam is crushed more than 18 inches out of line, if the rail has been severed, or if three or more posts have been broken,
- Cable rail – if any cable is broken, if the cable is sagging to the point that it would not function properly, or if four or more posts have been knocked down, and
- Concrete barrier – if it has been damaged such that it would not function properly.



Figure A.7. Damaged barriers.